

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 744  
By Overbey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Elmer Ellis Mize of  
Blount County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mr. Elmer Ellis Mize, the legendary historian for the City of Maryville and Blount County; and

WHEREAS, born in the same house and same room in which he would pass away, Elmer E. Mize was the son of the late Beecher Elmer and Vola Farmer Mize; he grew up in Maryville in the family home on Washington Street, built between 1917 and 1918, and attended Maryville city schools; and

WHEREAS, Elmer Mize was a graduate of Maryville College where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science; and

WHEREAS, a man who deeply valued knowledge and learning, Mr. Mize served as a teacher for 32 years in Knox County, save for one year which was spent teaching in Lanier, during which time he taught English, History and Math to students ranging from grades six to twelve; and

WHEREAS, highly respected by his colleagues in the teaching profession, Mr. Mize served for four years as President of the Blount County Retired Teachers Association and seven years as Treasurer; he was President of the local chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons for two years; and

WHEREAS, Elmer Mize was best known and highly esteemed throughout Blount County for his limitless knowledge of Maryville and Blount County history and his tireless volunteer work with the Blount County Library. Individual citizens often sought him out to pursue genealogical and historical questions; and

WHEREAS, possessing an unrivaled devotion to Maryville and Blount County, Elmer E. Mize lent his considerable time and talents to numerous civic organizations and projects; he

served as Chairman of the Blount County Museum Board, which is working to establish a county museum. In his capacity as City of Maryville Historian, he led walking tours of the downtown area highlighting historical buildings and occurrences to local groups and officials; and

WHEREAS, respected for his wisdom, knowledge and expertise, Mr. Mize was a founding member and life member of the Blount County Genealogical and Historical Society and served as editor of their publication, *Blount Journal*, for 17 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mize was called on numerous occasions to participate in events to commemorate and honor the historic legacy of Maryville and Blount County, including the unveiling of the portrait of Governor William Blount when the U.S. recruiting office was renamed the William Blount Recruiting Office in 1987, and he dedicated the John Craig Spring Monument and presented it to Maryville Mayor Stanley B. Shields on July 4, 1987; and

WHEREAS, the first person to receive an Honorary Life Membership in the Blount County Friends of the Library, Mr. Mize was also a member of the Maryville Bicentennial Commission in 1995, which built the Bicentennial Monument in the Greenbelt Park, a life member and former director of the Historic Sam Houston School House Association, and a member of the Blount County Library Foundation; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, Elmer E. Mize received the Maryville Rotary International Service Above Self Award, and in 2001 he was honored by the governor, county executive and mayor as Senior Citizen of the Year, with May 14<sup>th</sup> being declared “Elmer Mize Appreciation Day”; and

WHEREAS, Elmer Mize’s service to his community through all his good works has left a legacy of devoted friends and neighbors who cherish his memory and contributions that helped to build a better Maryville and Blount County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mize was an active and devout member of the Maryville First Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years in a number of capacities, including as Chairman of the 125th Anniversary Committee in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Elmer Ellis Mize was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he is preceded in death by sisters, Barbara Mize, Martha Mize Boruff and Joyce Mize Walls, and survived by brother and

sister-in-law, Bobby and Elizabeth Mize, and a number of nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews; and

WHEREAS, Elmer E. Mize leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mr. Elmer Ellis Mize, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Elmer E. Mize.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.